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Farm Bureau's Americanism Institute Held

Almost 200 high school students from throughout the state attended the annual Wyoming Farm Bureau Americanism Institute Saturday at Kelly Walsh High School.

The Americanism institute, a citizenship activity of the Farm Bureau, was begun five years ago as a means of better acquainting the people of Wyoming with the basic fundamentals of the American political and economic systems.

The meeting got under way at 9 a.m., with a presentation on the history of the United States and Wyoming flags, by Mrs. Robert Wiley, chairman of the Norwest District Farm Bureau Women's Committee. A film, "The American Flag," was shown, which traced the history and meaning of the flag from pre-Betsy Ross days.

Viet Nam Examined

Major Neil Fouts, University of Wyoming ROTC Department, talked on the subject "Why Viet Nam?"

Major Fouts explained why the United States is involved in the present war in Viet Nam.

The basic reason the U.S. is in Viet Nam with military forces, Fouts said, is to protect the freedom of the United States. He stated that the U.S. is not the aggressor in Viet Nam, that America did not start the

war, but is only in Southeast Asia as the protector of the free people there.

Major Fouts went into some detail on the problems of fighting in Viet Nam presented by the geography and the plant life. He stated that there are three layers of foliage which must be penetrated in order for the enemy to be seen on the ground.

Paul Haggard, history instructor at Pine Bluffs High School and a former staff member of the Central Intelligence Agency, gave a talk entitled "Let's Compare the Facts."

The economic system of capitalism, which is the difference between the United States and many other countries, was brought out as the reason for the richness of life in this country.

Haggard stressed the freedom of a worker to find and hold a job of his choice, the freedom of a businessman to enter any kind of business, and the freedom of the consumer to choose for himself what he intends to purchase.

The former CIA staff member indicated that wages in the U.S. are four times the wages in Russia, and that food prices in Russia are triple what they are in the U.S.

"Farm Bureau Views Citizenship Responsibilities" was the subject of a speech by F. W.

Costello, Pocatello, area field services director of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Costello indicated that the business of the government is the business of every citizen.

The people of the country should take more responsibility, in this government of the people, Costello stated.

He encouraged political activity as a means of participation in government.

Hebert D. Livingston, Newcastle, Wyoming Farm Bureau president, spoke on the future of the country.

"We will have the kind of government that we as the people will demand," Livingston said. "The U.S. government was first established as an experiment. There had never been a government established like it. It is a Republic, where the minority is protected."

"This government produced the greatest abundance and the highest standard of living for its people," he said. "We can run out of natural resources, so we must be careful with them."

"The reason most countries are hungry is not the lack of natural resources, but the hunger is caused by the control and restrictions placed upon their citizens by government," he said.

"These nations will continue to have hungry people until the people are provided with an incentive to work, in other words, until freedom of the individual prevails," Livingstone said.

The president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau said that he was very pleased with the turnout for the Institute, "and the tremendous interest in Americanism that was shown by all who attended."

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